AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Original)** A system for facilitating conception of inventions in a directed manner comprising a computer processor programmed to execute the following functions:

    (a)   requesting and accepting input comprising data selected from the group consisting of:

      (i)   mess statements;

      (ii)   data statements relating to the mess statements;

      (iii)   problem statements relating to the data statements;

      (iv)   elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements;

      (v)   solutions to the problem statements;

      (vi)   limitations of problem-element-solution combinations; and

      (vii)   solutions to the limitations;

    (b)   aggregating and storing said input data; and

    (c)   providing output displaying aggregated input data of (a)(i) to (a)(vii).

2. **(Original)** The system of claim 1 wherein the input data comprises one or more mess statements.

3. **(Original)** The system of claim 2 wherein the input data comprises one or more data statements relating to the mess statements.

4. **(Original)** The system of claim 3 wherein the input data comprises one or more problem statements relating to the data statements, elements and/or mess statements.

5. **(Original)** The system of claim 4 wherein the input data comprises one or more elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements, or where the elements are randomly generated or are conceived by the users as the result of a stimulus.

6. **(Original)** The system of claim 5 wherein the elements are randomly generated.

7. **(Original)** The system of claim 5 wherein the elements are conceived using a visual, tactile or olfactory stimulus.

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8. **(Original)** The system of claim 5 wherein the input data comprises one or more solutions to the problem statements.

9. **(Original)** The system of claim 8 wherein one or more of the solutions is conceived using one element and a problem statement as creative stimulus, and the solution is stored in a manner which indicates its relationship to a problem and an element.

10. **(Original)** The system of claim 8 wherein the input data comprises one or more limitations of problem-element-solution combinations.

11. **(Original)** The system of claim 10 wherein the input data comprises one or more solutions to the limitations.

12. **(Currently amended)** The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~system~~ <u>computer processor is further programmed to</u> instructs the user that a complete <u>IOD</u> invention comprises:
    (a)   a seed of an invention;
    (b)   all limitations of the seed of an invention<u>, wherein each of the limitations has at least one corresponding respective solution</u>; and
    (c)   all solutions to the limitations.

13. **(Original)** The system of claim 1 wherein the computer processor is a component of a server.

14. **(Original)** The system of claim 13 further comprising one or more participant computers operably linked to the server.

15. **(Currently amended)** The system of claim 14 wherein one or more of the participant computer(s) is linked via a network system selected from the group consisting of: local area networks, virtual private networks, ~~an~~ near private networks, the Internet, an<u>d</u> intranets<u>.</u>

16. **(Currently amended)** The system of claim 14 wherein:
    (a)   one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to the server; and/or
    (b)   one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to one or more more other participant computers.

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17. **(Currently amended)** A method for facilitating conception of inventions in a directed manner, the method comprising:

(a) providing a computer processor programmed to accept input and provide output;

(b) inputting <u>into the computer processor by at least one participant</u> data selected from the group consisting of:

   (i) mess statements;

   (ii) data statements relating to the mess statements;

   (iii) problem statements relating to the data statements;

   (iv) elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements;

   (v) solutions to the problem statements;

   (vi) limitations of problem-element-solution combinations; and

   (vii) solutions to the limitations;

(b) aggregating and storing the input data input in step (b); and

(c) providing output displaying aggregated input data of (b)(i) to (b)(vii).

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 17 further comprising facilitating the conception by one or more participants of any one or more types of information selected from the group consisting of:

(a) mess statements;

(b) data statements relating to the mess statements;

(c) problem statements relating to the data statements;

(d) elements relating to the problem statements, mess statements and/or data statements;

(e) solutions to the problem statements;

(f) limitations of problem-element-solution combinations; and

(g) solutions to the limitations.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 18 further comprising using a problem statement and an element as creative stimuli to facilitate conception of a solution to the problem statement.

20. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 18 further comprising identifying one or more limitations of a problem-element-solution combination and solutions to the limitation.

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21. **(Original)** The method of claim 17 further comprising using problem-element combinations as creative stimuli to facilitate inventive conception.

22. **(Original)** The method of claim 17 wherein the input data comprises elements (b)(i)-(b)(vii).

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 17 further comprising communicating via a telephone system, the telephone system having conference calling capabilities.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 17 wherein the computer processor is a component of a server.

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 24 further coomprising one or more participant computers operably linked to the server.

26. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 25 wherein one or more of the participant computer(s) is linked via a network system selected from the group consisting of: local area networks, virtual private networks, an near private networks, the Internet, and intranets.

27. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein:
    (a)   one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to the server; and/or
    (b)   one or more of the participant computers is remotely located relative to one or more other participant computers.

28. **(New)** A method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, comprising the steps of:
    (a)   instructing at least one participant on the concepts of:
        (i)   mess statements;
        (ii)   data statements;
        (iii)   problem statements;.and
        (iv)   solutions;
    as concepts (a)(i) through (a)(iv) relate to facilitating conception of inventions;
    (b)   instructing the at least one participant to input into a computer at least one of the following data items relating to the at least one invention:
        (i)   at least one mess statement;

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       (ii)   at least one data statement;

       (iii)   at least one problem statement; and

       (iv)   at least one solution.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein step (b) includes instructing the at least one participant to input more than one of the items (b)(i) through (b)(iv).

30. (New) A method of facilitation conception of at least one invention, comprising the steps of:

    (a)   receiving at least one mess statement;

    (b)   receiving at least one problem statement;

    (c)   receiving at least one solution; and

    (d)   generating at least one invention map showing the at least one solution.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising prior to step (e) the step of receiving at least one limitation.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein step (d) comprises generating at least one invention map showing the at least one solution and the at least one limitation.

33. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising prior to step (d) the step of receiving a plurality of limitations and wherein step (c) comprises receiving a plurality of solutions, step (d) comprising generating an invention map for each solution of the plurality of solutions, each invention map comprising a corresponding respective solution of the plurality of.solution and any of the plurality of limitations corresponding to the corresponding respective solution.

34. (New) A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions implementing a method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, the computer-executable instructions comprising:

    (a)   a first set of computer-executable instructions for providing a first input field and providing a first label identifying the first input field as a mess statement input field;

    (b)   a second set of computer-executable instructions for providing a second input field and providing a second label identifying the second input field as a problem statement input field;

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    (c)   a third set of computer-executable instructions for providing a third input field and providing a third label identifying the third input field as a solution input field; and

    (d)   a fourth set of computer-executable instructions for generating at least one invention map for each solution entered into the third input field.

35. **(New)** A system, comprising:

a computer containing computer executable instructions implementing a method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, the computer executable instructions comprising:

    (i)   a first set of computer-executable instructions for providing a first input field and providing a first label identifying the first input field as a mess statement input field;

    (ii)   a second set of computer-executable instructions for providing a second input field and providing a second label identifying the second input field as a problem statement input field;

    (iii)   a third set of computer-executable instructions for providing a third input field and providing a third label identifying the third input field as a solution input field; and

    (iv)   a fourth set of computer-executable instructions for generating at least one invention map for each solution entered into the third input field.

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